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Duxbury Clipper

## New DHS Principal Hails from Hull

By MORAG MACLACHLAN

The principal of Memorial Middle School in Hull will switch roles and towns beginning in July.

Andrew Stephens will become Duxbury High School's new principal, Duxbury Supt. Eileen Williams said on Wednesday. Stephens will take over for interim principal, Tom Kelley, effective July 1. He will earn \$110,000.

"I had always had my eye on Duxbury, so I took a shot," Stephens said.

In December, Stephens and Manuel Cabral, assistant principal of Dartmouth High School, were named as the two finalists for the position vacat-



**Andrew Stephens, principal of Memorial Middle School in Hull, will be the new DHS principal.**

ed last June by John McCarthy. McCarthy earned \$105,820 in 2005.

In December, Williams said that site visits to each of the candidate's schools and time for each finalist to come

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to DHS needed to be completed before a final decision was made. After the site visits, Stephens was selected.

"Consistent comments from faculty, students and parents interviewed during the site visit included remarks regarding his fairness, good communication, clear expectations, making timely and appropriate decisions, supporting all students and their interests, energy and enthusiasm, and the ability to motivate others toward a common goal," Williams wrote in a press release. "Mr. Stephens had clearly brought some stability to a school which had been in transition for some time and all groups expressed their sadness at possibly losing him. However, all acknowledged that he was a 'high school person at heart' and that Duxbury High School would be a good fit for both parties."

Stephens took on the role of principal of Memorial Middle School in September. Prior to assuming this job, he spent three years as the assistant principal of Hull High School. Stephens got his start in the education field by teaching history for seven years in both Vermont and Newton.

While working at Newton North High School, Stephens said he also served as an assistant housemaster for three years.

Stephens, who resides in Cohasset, said he enjoyed his time at the helm of the middle school, but longed to be back in a high school setting.

"I've spent most of my career in high school," Stephens said. "High school is where I am most comfortable."

Williams said on Thursday that Stephens' experience in Newton was good preparation for the Duxbury position.

"We were impressed with Andrew's experience with development of curriculum and support of teachers in improving instruction; especially his work in the area of writing. Also, his experience in Newton seemed to be good preparation for Duxbury as it is a similar population," Williams said.

Stephens' academic background includes a bachelor's degree from Colgate University, a master's degree in education from Johnson State College in Vermont, and a Certificate of Advanced Educational Specialization in education administration from Boston College.

He will serve out the remainder of the academic year in Hull. Stephens said he only applied for the job in Duxbury and that his staff was aware of his interest in the high school.

"They have been extremely professional and they are personally happy for me," Stephens said.

On Friday, Hull's Assistant Superintendent Milly O'Callaghan, who is also Duxbury's former director of special education, commented on Stephens' departure on behalf of the administration.

"He will be missed and we wish him well," O'Callaghan said.

Chris Shipps, a former member of the Hull School Committee, said Duxbury was "pretty lucky."

"Andrew is competent and capable and because of that the students and the faculty like and respect him," Shipps said.